

**Amendment and Response**

Applicant: William E. Sloan et al.

Serial No.: 09/997,771

Filing Date: November 29, 2001

Docket: G180.146.101

Title: BAKEABLE MUFFIN PAN, AND USE THEREOF

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 11 and 18.

Please add claims 19-26.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 6-10, 12-14, and 17 as follows:

1.(Currently Amended) A ~~pan for baking, the~~ pan comprising:

~~(a) a first surface for receiving batter or dough thereon, the first surface having at least one receptacle for receiving batter or dough therein; defining:~~

~~at least a first row of receptacles and a second row of receptacles; (b) a stacking feature constructed and arranged to:~~

~~(i) allow stacking of a first pan and a second pan when one of the first pan and the second pan are rotated, and~~

~~(ii) eliminate nesting of the first pan and the second pan when one of the first pan and the second pan are rotated; and~~

~~(c) a wall extending from the first surface and terminating in, the wall defining a pan perimeter and having a height of at least 0.5 inch.; and~~

~~a stacking feature defined by a position of the second row of receptacles relative to the pan perimeter such that a distance between a first receptacle in the second row and a nearest pan perimeter is less than a distance between a last receptacle in the second row and a respective nearest pan perimeter;~~

~~wherein the stacking feature is configured such that in a first orientation of the pan relative to a second, identical pan, the stacking feature permits nesting of the pans, and in a second orientation the stacking feature permits stacking of the pans.~~

2.(Original) The pan according to claim 1, the pan made from a material comprising a non-conductive material.

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3.(Currently Amended) The pan according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a height of the wall is about 0.5 inch to 2.5 inches.

4.(Original) The pan according to claim 3, wherein the height of the wall is about 1 inch to 2 inches.

5.(Original) The pan according to claim 2, wherein the non-conductive material is crystallized polyethylene terephthalate.

6.( Currently Amended) The pan according to claim 1, wherein the ~~pan is a muffin pan comprising~~ first surface defines a plurality of receptacles ~~for receiving batter or dough therein.~~

7.( Currently Amended) The pan according to claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein the first surface defines a planar land area between adjacent ~~plurality of receptacles comprising a first receptacle and a second receptacle, and the first surface defining at least one aperture positioned between the first receptacle and the second receptacle.~~

8.( Currently Amended) The pan according to claim 6, wherein the plurality of receptacles are aligned in ~~a~~ the first row and in ~~a~~ the second row, ~~each~~ the second row having at least two receptacles.

9.( Currently Amended) The pan according to claim ~~8~~ 1, wherein the receptacles of the first row are aligned with the receptacles of the second row.

10.( Currently Amended) The pan according to claim ~~8~~ 1, wherein the receptacles of the first row are misaligned with the receptacles of the second row.

11.(Canceled)

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12.(Currently Amended) The pan according to claim 6, wherein the ~~muffin~~ pan ~~comprises~~first surface defines twelve receptacles.

13.(Currently Amended) The pan according to claim 6, wherein the ~~muffing~~ pan ~~comprises~~first surface defines at least six receptacles.

14.(Currently Amended) The pan according to claim 1, wherein the pan perimeter defines ~~having~~ a length of about 17 inches ~~to 18 inches~~ and a width of about 12 inches ~~to 13 inches~~.

15.(Original) The pan according to claim 1, further comprising an air distribution feature.

16.(Original) The pan according to claim 1, further comprising a removable lid attached thereto.

17.(Currently Amended) A set of baking pans, ~~the set~~ comprising:

- (a) a first pan;<sub>i</sub> and
- a second pan;<sub>i</sub>

wherein each of the first pan and the second pan includes~~comprising~~:

- (i) ~~a first surface for receiving batter or dough thereon, the first surface having at least one receptacle for receiving batter or dough therein~~defining at least a first row of receptacles and a second row of receptacles;

and a wall extending from the first surface and terminating in a pan perimeter,  
a stacking feature defined by a position of the second row of receptacles relative to the pan perimeter such that a distance between a first receptacle in the second row and a nearest pan perimeter is less than a distance between a last receptacle in the second row and a respective nearest pan perimeter.

- (ii) ~~a wall extending from the first surface, the wall defining a pan perimeter and having a height of at least 0.5 inch; and~~

- (b) ~~a liner positioned between the first pan and the second pan.~~

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18.(Canceled)

19. (New) The pan of claim 7, wherein the planar land area includes at least one of a post, rib, protrusion, ridge, and a three dimensional structure.

20. (New) The pan of claim 7, wherein the planar land area defines an aperture configured to permit air flow through the pan.

21. (New) The pan of claim 1, wherein a first distance is defined between a first pair of adjacent receptacles and a second distance is defined between a second pair of adjacent receptacles, the first and second distances being unequal.

22. (New) The pan of claim 1, further comprising an indicator configured to identify the orientation of the pan.

23. (New) The set of baking pans of claim 17, wherein the stacking feature is configured such that when the first pan is in a first spatial orientation and the second pan is in the first spatial orientation, assembly of the second pan to the first pan assembly is characterized by the receptacles of the second pan nesting within the receptacles of the first pan.

24. (New) The set of baking pans of claim 23, wherein the stacking feature is further configured such that when the first pan is in the first spatial orientation and the second pan is in a second spatial orientation, assembly of the second pan to the first pan is characterized by the receptacles of the second pan being stacked above the receptacles of the first pan.

25. (New) The set of baking pans of claim 24, wherein in the second spatial orientation, the second pan is rotated by 180 degrees relative to the first pan.

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26. (New)      The set of baking pans of claim 24, further comprising a liner disposed between the first pan and the second pan.